

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:162
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
REPEAL OF OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT,1923
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the second Administrative Reforms Commission has recommended the repealing of the Official Secrets Act, 1923; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to repeal the Official Secrets Act?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) & (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 162 FOR 27.11.2007 REGARDING REPEAL OF OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT, 1923.

(a) & (b): The Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) in its report 'Right to Information- Master Key to Good Governance' has inter-alia recommended that the Official Secrets Act (OSA), 1923 should be repealed, and substituted by a chapter in the National Security Act, 1980 containing provisions relating to official secrets. It has also recommended that the existing section 5 of the Official Secrets Act may be reformulated on the lines recommended by the Shourie Committee. The Government is of the view that the Official Secrets Act is the only law that deals with spying and wrongful possession and communication of secret information and therefore, it should remain on the statute book. However, the recommendation of the ARC to reformulate the existing section 5 of OSA is being considered by the Ministry of Home Affairs.